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JPRS Report

Arms Control

Soviet Reports on Missile Removal, Destruction
February–April 1988

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Arms Control

Soviet Reports on Missile Removal, Destruction

February-April 1988

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**Reports on Removals of SS-12 Missiles from
Czechoslovakia, GDR**

TV From Base in CSSR

*52001065a Moscow Television Service in Russian
1530 GMT 6 Feb 88*

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Here is a report from a nuclear missile base about the missiles soon to be eliminated. The report was prepared by the Czech television.

[Unidentified correspondent] This is a Soviet missile unit near the town of Hranice in Moravia. Missiles OTR-22 are sited here; in the United States they are known as SS-12's. Their range is up to 1,000 km. These weapons are to be eliminated in accordance with the Soviet-U.S. treaty, but the treaty has not yet been ratified and the unit is maintaining its full capability and engaged in routine combat training. Nevertheless, today is unusual. The missile men are being visited by Czechoslovak journalists: newspaper and television correspondents. They spoke to officers and soldiers and visited the school attended by their children and families. Let us be frank, only a few months ago, prior to the signing of the treaty in Washington, such reports would have hardly been possible, not just in Czechoslovakia, but also in neighboring FRG and other countries. That, of course, is a sign that there has been some warming up in the world.

[Announcer] Trust in the international arena is being strengthened but for the time being we are incapable of showing you a similar report from a U.S. base.

[Video shows missile being moved out; soldiers running on alert; two officers interviewed, with captions reading "Lieutenant Colonel Vyacheslav D. Granovskiy and Captain Viktor A. Shumakovskiy, crew commander"]

Soviet Government Statement

*52001065a Moscow TASS in English
2112 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Text] Moscow February 25 TASS—Follows the text of a Soviet Government statement:

The treaty between the USSR and the United States on the elimination of their intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles, signed on December 8, 1987, provides also for the liquidation of Soviet OTR-22 (SS-12) missiles of shorter range which were deployed on the territory of the GDR and Czechoslovakia as reply measures to the deployment of American intermediate-range missiles in several West European countries.

Proceeding from an accord reached at a meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of Warsaw Treaty member states in Berlin in May 1987 the Soviet Government decided as a display of good will to withdraw the Soviet OTR-22 (SS-12) missiles, their launchers and

corresponding auxiliary equipment from the territory of the GDR and Czechoslovakia on agreement with the governments of these countries already before the INF Treaty enters into force.

The missiles will be withdrawn in February-March 1988 to the territory of the USSR to places designated in the memorandum of accord on the establishment of initial data in connection with the said treaty.

Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry Spokesman

*52001072 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
26 Feb 88 p 5*

[Report by IZVESTIYA own correspondent L. Kornilov: "A Sign of Good Will: Soviet Missiles Are Leaving the Territory of the CSSR." Passage in boldface as published]

[Text] Prague—On 25 February the withdrawal of OTR-22 operational-tactical missiles from the environs of the North Moravian town of Hranice began.

Thus, as was earlier declared, these missiles are leaving the territory of Czechoslovakia even before the ratification of the Soviet-American treaty signed on 8 December 1987.

"This is a wonderful step, a proclamation of good will, a clear example which will undoubtedly have a positive effect on the process of making the international atmosphere more healthy," declared D. Rovensky, a representative of the CSSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "This is new and striking proof that the Soviet Union is consistently, honestly and ahead of schedule fulfilling its obligations. The missiles and launchers are being taken within the borders of the USSR, where they will be eliminated after the ratification of the treaty.

In a situation where there is a real hope that the treaty will come into force even before the end of the first half of this year, the removal of the Soviet missiles will create no threat to the security of the CSSR.

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Reports from GDR, CSSR Missile Bases

*52001073 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
27 Feb 88 p 5*

[Reports by IZVESTIYA own correspondents V. Lapskiy: "GDR", and L. Kornilov: "Czechoslovakia"]

[Text]

GDR

Waren-Berlin—The small town of Waren in the northern part of the GDR, which truth to tell I had never heard of a week ago, is today part of Great History. A train carrying Soviet missile equipment has departed from the platform of its station.

Another train carrying Soviet missiles has moved out of the town of Bischofswerda in the southern part of the republic. As is known, the governments of the USSR, the GDR and the CSSR agreed to show good will and speed up the withdrawal of Soviet OTR-22 (SS-12) shorter-range missiles from the territory of the GDR and the CSSR, without waiting for the official ratification of the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles. They will be delivered to the Soviet Union and, after the ratification of the treaty, destroyed.

On 25 February the day was overcast. Snow, which had not been seen in Waren all winter, lightly dusted the city. People are streaming into the square in front of the station from all over. Marches played by military bands are heard. The people are carrying banners and placards. On one of them is written in German: "Thank you, Soviet soldiers."

During the first stage of its journey, the special train, loaded with missile equipment, stretched almost half a kilometer. Wrapped in tarpaulin, being pulled by cables, the terrible missiles look like tamed monsters, deprived of their strength. Many journalists have come: Americans, English, West Germans, correspondents from the socialist countries. Probably every Soviet soldier or officer on the station platform gives an interview. The questions are varied. Some deal with high politics, others with the feelings connected with taking the missiles home.

A bugle sounds, announcing the start of the farewell meeting. The station square is filled to its limits with people. The leaders of Neubrandenburg bezirk and Waren city, representatives of local branches of all the political parties of the GDR, the trade unions and the Union of Free German Youth, and Soviet generals and officers, mount the speakers' platform. We hear words of gratitude to the Soviet servicemen, who have worthily fulfilled their obligations as allies and their international duty.

...It is 4 o'clock p.m. Central European time. The green light comes on. The farewell whistle blows. The heavy train carrying missile equipment pulls out of the station and slowly gathers speed. Good journey!

Czechoslovakia

Hranice—Thursday morning military commands rang out at the Hranice railroad station. Men in greatcoats and black coveralls carefully waved on the colossal transporters—forward, forward, still forward... With

exactitude down to the centimeter, even to the millimeter, the trucks moved up to the platforms of the railroad flatbeds. OTR-22 missiles (known in the West as SS-12s), which can destroy a target 500 to 1,000 kilometers away, were loaded onto the train, so that that very day they would leave Czechoslovakia and proceed to the territory of the Soviet Union, where after the ratification of the treaty they will be destroyed.

Looking at these powerful "tankcars," it is impossible not to think of their murderous power. It is impossible not to think how good it would be if the peace-loving step taken by the governments of the USSR, the GDR and the CSSR were also taken by the government of the FRG, where recently more and more often are heard voices calling for the Federal Republic to adhere to the initiative of the socialist countries and to decide to remove the Pershings from its territory ahead of schedule.

Soviet servicemen spoke at the meeting held in the unit stationed in the city of Hranice; they were given souvenir gifts from the CSSR Ministry of National Defense. Representatives of the Czechoslovak public, CPCZ Prešov Okres Committee First Secretary Kvetoslav Hrushak, and soldiers of the Czechoslovak People's Army also spoke.

Until very recently this unit was a "closed zone" even for military newspaper reporters. Simply "N unit" and nothing more. But on 25 February more than 70 Soviet and Czechoslovak journalists arrived here—to cover an event which, as one of our colleagues expressed it, was once in a lifetime.

Lieutenant Colonel V. Granovskiy, commander of the unit, was asked a question:

"What precautions have been taken for the time the special train is in transit?"

"The launchers have been fastened to the platforms in a most careful manner; all norms and instructions have been observed. The safety of the railroad right of way and the surrounding territory and population have been completely ensured."

The Soviet soldiers are leaving with a feeling of having fulfilled their duty and with the recognition that they are among the first to concretely, really participate in the cause of disarmament.

Snow, clean, white snow fell in large flakes; it stuck to the village, to people's clothes and to the covers of the missile canisters... Night fell. The Hranice stationmaster gave the signal to go and the train slowly pulled out Eastwards.

UD/330

Reports from Kazakhstan on Arrival of Missiles for Destruction

First SS-12s Arrive in Saryozek

52001074 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian
13 Mar 88 p 1

[Item by Lieutenant Colonel A. Ladin: "Evidence of Good Will"]

[Text] Saryozek, Taldy-Kurgan Oblast, 12 March—As has already been reported, the governments of the USSR, the CSSR and the GDR have decided to show good will and begin the withdrawal of OTR-22 (SS-20) shorter-range missiles from the territory of the GDR and the CSSR, without waiting for the official ratification of the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles.

Today the first train carrying shorter-range missiles from the city of Waren, GDR arrived at Saryozek station. Journalists from the socialist countries were at the reception point. They observed the unloading of the flatbed cars and visited the place where the missiles will be stored until the ratification of the treaty.

Colonel V. Orgutsov, deputy chief of the Central Asian Military District political administration, as well as officers who accompanied the missiles from the GDR's territory, answered the journalists' questions. Other trains carrying missiles from the GDR and the CSSR will soon arrive at Saryozek station.

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Second Group of SS-12s Arrive

52001065a Moscow TASS in English
1131 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Saryozek (Kazakhstan) March 12 TASS—By TASS special correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev:

This place in the Kazakhstan steppe is destined to go down into the chronicle of nuclear disarmament. On these days trains carrying Soviet operational-tactical missiles OTR-22 and OTR-23 (SS-12, SS-23) are arriving in Saryozek, 200 kilometres north of Alma-Ata. These missiles were withdrawn from the territory of Czechoslovakia and the GDR in agreement with the governments of the above-mentioned countries.

Today a group of Soviet and foreign journalists from socialist countries who arrived here, were present during the unloading of the second train with missiles and transport means, which arrived from Waren (GDR). Already 21 missiles have been brought here. Another four trains from the GDR and Czechoslovakia are on their way to Saryozek. After the unloading the missiles were delivered to the place of their stockpiling where they will be kept until their destruction after the Soviet-American treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles, which was signed by Mikhail Gorbachev and

Ronald Reagan in Washington on December 8, 1987, is ratified by both sides and comes into force. Saryozek is the only place in the USSR where all the Soviet shorter-range missiles will be scrapped.

The practical measures being carried out by the Soviet Union in preparation for the physical elimination of the missiles are evidence of the Soviet leadership's serious and responsible approach to the resolution of the tasks involved in the elimination of nuclear weapons, strengthening international security and building up confidence between states. These measures are a manifestation of the goodwill and a constructive example designed to contribute to a further improvement of the international situation. They are also convincing evidence that even before the treaty comes into force, the USSR meets its commitments consistently and fairly.

Further From Saryozek

52001065a Moscow TASS in English
1630 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Saryozek, Kazakhstan, March 12 TASS—TASS special correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev reports:

The train with shorter-range missiles, which were deployed in the territory of the German Democratic Republic, arrived here today. A group of Soviet journalists and correspondents from other socialist countries, which arrived in Saryozek, watched how the train was unloaded. Then they visited the site of their storage, where the missiles will be kept until their destruction following the ratification by both sides of the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on Eliminating Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles. Under the treaty, Saryozek will be the site for the elimination of all Soviet shorter-range missiles.

Giving clarifications to journalists, Major Sergey Gorkunov, who arrived with the train, noted that the USSR, demonstrating good will, got down unilaterally to fulfilling its obligations under the INF Treaty without waiting for its ratification.

"The missiles, which arrived today, were installed near the city of Waren in the territory of the German Democratic Republic within the framework of response measures to the deployment of U.S. Pershing-2 and cruise missiles in several West European countries," Major Gorkunov said. "The officers and men of our unit fully support the Soviet leadership's decision on the withdrawal of the missiles ahead of schedule. This is a modern and reliable weapon but we have no regrets for parting with it since it is done in the name of lofty and humane purposes. The principal task of the Soviet Army has always been the defence of our people's peaceful labour and the world without arms guarantees the best and most durable peace".

The 31-year old officer said that his qualification was electrical engineer and in the event of demobilization from the Army he would always find a job in the national economy. "My fellow servicemen hold the same point of view", Major Gorkunov said in conclusion.

It is symbolical that Kazakhstan, which gained world renown as a spaceport from which spaceships soar into space for the peaceful exploration of space, has now been chosen as the place where military-oriented nuclear missiles will be destroyed. The missile-space technology, the brainchild of human genius, should serve the express purposes of peace and creation. This is the will of all sensible people on earth. This is the imperative of the time.

TV Shows Unloading

51001065a Moscow Television Service in Russian
1530 GMT 13 Mar 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast; video report by television correspondent Viktor Glukhovtsev]

[Excerpts] As has already been announced, the Soviet Government has decided to withdraw, as a gesture of goodwill, OTR-22 missiles from the territory of the GDR and Czechoslovakia in agreement with the governments of these states. This work has begun. Our correspondent Viktor Glukhovtsev brings a report from the scene of events.

[Glukhovtsev, over video of railway yard, rail cars, missile carriers, uniformed men, and journalists taking photographs of unloading operations] This is how Saryozek looks now, in springtime. It is here that, as was written in the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles, the first trains have arrived from the GDR. Twenty-one operational-tactical OTR-22 missiles—or SS-12 missiles, as they are known in the West—are in containers on rail flatcars. Unloading is now underway at the station: You can see a missile being mounted onto a self-propelled chassis. From here they will be taken into the steppe, to a special place where, in accordance with the treaty, they will be destroyed.

The installation, which was quite recently top secret, is today open to journalists. This particularly important event will be an achievement of glasnost for all people on earth. Here they are, these terrible missiles, packed up in containers. And although they are described as shorter-range missiles, they are capable of covering a distance of 1,000 km within minutes.

The last tasks are being carried out at the missile operational base. [video shows missiles being mounted on vehicles, convoys moving along roads through snowy wastes.] A special team of missile troops, under the command of Major Mikhlov, is unloading the OTR-22's. Heavy vehicles are taking them away to their storage area. At the request of correspondents, the missile troops open up one container. Please, do have a look what the

weapon now due for destruction looks like. [video shows correspondents looking on as environmental container top is lifted to reveal missile inside]

It is not far from Saryozek station to the missile operational base where the OTR-22s are to be stored for the time being, only 40 km. But behind this lies long years of seeking ways to a peaceful settlement, to destruction of nuclear weapons; behind this lies the people's efforts for a peaceful life and global good-neighborly relations. [video shows missiles in environmental containers being unloaded at railway yard from flat cars and being lifted by a mobile crane onto MAZ transporter-erector-launcher vehicles; one missile shown inside container on low-loader wheels]

TASS Commentary

52001065a Moscow TASS in English 1311 GMT
14 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 14 TASS—By TASS commentator Gennadiy Talalayev:

New entries are being added to the chronicle of the nuclear disarmament process, which was started on December 8, 1987, by signing the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, as the document has begun to be translated into reality.

Trains carrying Soviet shorter-range OTR-22 (SS-12) and OTR-23 (SS-23) missiles, which were removed from the German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia late last month—even before the treaty's ratification—by agreement with the governments of those countries, are arriving at the settlement of Saryozek in the remote Kazakhstan steppes.

A group of Soviet correspondents and their colleagues from socialist countries visited that once top-secret facility last Saturday.

The reporters, who represented news agencies, the press, radio and television, witnessed the unloading of the second train with missiles and prime movers from Waren, the GDR.

Four more such trains are expected this week from that country and Czechoslovakia.

The unloading over, the column of prime movers with missiles and a bus with the newsmen went to the storage site where the weapons will be kept up to their elimination following the INF Treaty's ratification by both sides and its entry into force.

Saryozek is the only place in the Soviet Union, where all Soviet shorter-range missiles will be destroyed.

The early withdrawal of Soviet shorter-range missiles from the GDR and Czechoslovakia to the elimination site is evidence that the Soviet Union is prepared to honor its commitments consistently and in good faith.

The Warsaw treaty members have begun to undo the nuclear missile potential created by them to offset the deployment of U.S. Pershing-2 and cruise missiles in Western Europe.

Taking this move, the Soviet Union and its allies are convinced that they are on the right track to stronger international security.

The return of the Soviet missiles to Soviet territory is a call for trust among nations and for a search for mutually acceptable solutions to conflict situations.

Talking with reporters at Saryozek, Colonel Vyacheslav Ogurtsov, a spokesman for the Political Administration of the Central Asian Military District, said:

"We have made the good will gesture without waiting for the treaty's ratification and are entitled to expect it to be interpreted correctly by the other side, as the treaty can only be fulfilled completely if there is reciprocal movement."

More Missiles Arrive at Elimination Site

52001065a Moscow Television Service in Russian
0330 GMT 16 Mar 88

[Announcer-read report; from the "120 Minutes" program]

[Text] Another train with operational-tactical missiles OTR-22, or SS-12, which are to be destroyed in accordance with the treaty between the USSR and the United States in the event of it being ratified, has arrived at the steppe station of Saryozek, Kazakhstan. U.S. experts will observe the precise fulfillment of conditions.

Withdrawal of SS-12s From CSSR 'Completed'

52001065a Moscow World Service in English
2200 GMT 16 Mar 88

[Text] The Soviet Union has completed the withdrawal from Czechoslovakia of its shorter-range missiles known in the West as SS-12s. The withdrawal of the missiles, slated for destruction under the Soviet-American INF Treaty, from Czechoslovakia and the GDR was undertaken by the Soviet Union in a display of goodwill before the treaty's ratification. The missiles are being brought in for storage in the USSR and will be destroyed after the treaty assumes legal force.

Rationale for Procedures Explained

52001065a Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
17 Mar 88 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Swords Into Plowshares"]

[Text] Saryozek (Taldy-Kurgan Oblast), 15 Mar—The latest trainload of the operational-tactical missiles which international documents call Operational-Tactical Missile-22 (SS-12's) has arrived at this station lost in the endless Kazakh steppe. Their shipment here, thousands of kilometers from the places where they were previously deployed, is seen throughout the world as the latest manifestation of the goodwill and peaceful aspirations of the USSR, GDR, and CSSR Governments. Because the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles has not yet been ratified.

Soldiers rapidly and skillfully unload the train. The long, snub-nosed missiles are laid on special cars. In a few hours they will be delivered to the place where they will be stored and subsequently destroyed.

The day the first train was unloaded, a TASS correspondent traveled this route with newspaper, radio, and TV correspondents from socialist countries and visited the storage sites. He saw a similar class dummy missile being destroyed. An explosive is put underneath it, and after the explosion only very small fragments remain.

When Lieutenant colonel A. Borodin, commander of a missile unit, and other specialists told journalists from fraternal countries about this, they were frankly perplexed. Why was such modern equipment involving tremendous labor by thousands of people being destroyed?

There were also other questions. Why had the missiles been taken so far away to be destroyed? Had the Americans gained from the reciprocal reduction?

The missile officers answered in a frank and businesslike manner. To sum up their opinions and assessments, you can conclude that none of them has any doubt today of the truly historic significance of the treaty. The Soviet missilemen are prepared to destroy their weapons for the sake of world peace as soon as they receive the order.

The missile elimination site was not chosen at random. Military specialists together with ecology experts reached the conclusion that powerful explosions here among the empty clay hills would be least detrimental to nature.

Not everything at the missile complexes will be destroyed. For instance, it is planned to hand over the powerful vehicles to the national economy. As for the rest, in accordance with the treaty, the missiles are being eliminated here by being blown up in the launch containers or by incineration of the missile stages.

U.S. experts (like Soviet experts in the United States) will observe the precise fulfillment of these conditions here.

As for the number of missiles to be destroyed by both sides, the main point, the officers say, is not the arithmetic. A multitude of other circumstances—political, military, and moral—must also be taken into consideration.

The United States is eliminating its intermediate-range missiles in Europe, which are practically strategic weapons as far as the USSR is concerned. They can hit sites on our country's territory and that of its allies in 8-10 minutes. This circumstance gave rise to adventurist hopes in some people in the West of victory in a nuclear war. The treaty has canceled these "hopes," which present a danger to all mankind. The elimination of the intermediate- and shorter-range missiles will be the first real step toward ridding mankind of nuclear weapons and other types of mass destruction weapons.

The unloading is finished. The column of vehicles sets off. The next train will arrive here this evening.

Reader Reassured: Missile Destruction Will Be Ecologically Harmless

52001065a Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
20 Mar 88 Morning Edition p 2

[Lieutenant Colonel Yu. Soldatenko replies to reader's letter under the heading "The Destruction of the Missiles Will Be Safe" and the rubric "News Panorama"; first paragraph is reader's letter]

[Text] I am aware from press reports that trains carrying missiles from the GDR and the CSSR are coming to Saryozek in Taldy-Kurgan Oblast. They will be destroyed after the ratification of the Soviet-American Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles. The importance of this event is, I believe, rightly described as a historic step toward a nuclear-free world. But what I would like to know is this: Is the actual process of destroying these terrible weapons fraught with any consequences for the environment? K. Vladimirov, Novosibirsk.

The question of preserving ecological purity raised in this reader's letter is well founded. As scientists in many countries all over the world are pointing out with alarm, a vast quantity of toxic waste is already pumped daily into the atmosphere by thermal electric power plants, boiler houses, and industrial and other enterprises. The smallest particles of gallium, cadmium, zinc, lead, sulfur oxide, carbon, and other lethal contaminants, some of which are carcinogenic, affect flora, fauna, and aquatic life and lead to soil oxidation. And not only in the territory of the country which is the source of the pollution.

All this could not be ignored by the Soviet and American leaders when they signed the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles in Washington on 8 December 1987. Moreover, precise information verified by specialists many times over on the possible consequences to the environment of different methods of destroying hundreds of Soviet and American missiles was taken into account. It was on the basis of this information that the Protocol on Procedures Regulating the Elimination of Missile Systems was prepared; it indicates that each side has the right to select the technological methods necessary for the destruction of their weapons.

Specific methods of destroying the elements of these missile systems are indicated, as you know, in points 10 and 11 of Section II of the protocol: Firing (launching), combustion, crushing, compression, or elimination by detonation. Whereas the crushing and compressing methods are "clean," so to speak, in ecological respects, detonation and combustion methods required careful study. A series of such tests were carried out by the Soviet Union and the United States when the provisions of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles were being drawn up.

This is how the Soviet Union studied the problem, for example. The main factors affecting the environment when detonating solid-propellant missiles are the shock wave, the products resulting from chemical reactions in the process of the explosion (hydrochloric acid in particular), and also some incombustible fragments of missiles, containers, and fuel loads falling on the earth's surface over a radius of several kilometers. The aims of the experiments were to obtain data on the group detonation of missiles ("bundles" of three), evaluate the distribution of products from the detonation in terms of time and space, and draw up recommendations for establishing the areas for such detonation. A careful express analysis of the atmosphere and earth's surface was carried out during each experiment. Tests of the soil and samples of the cloud formed by the explosion were taken over an area of several dozen kilometers from the center of the explosion.

The results of the research carried out in the Soviet Union convincingly showed that the impact on the environment during the destruction of missiles is safe from an ecological viewpoint. U.S. specialists reached the same conclusion. A memorandum assessing the impact on the environment of measures to destroy American intermediate- and shorter-range missiles which the Pentagon issued for journalists points out that the methods of missile destruction will not lead to any discharge into the atmosphere exceeding the corresponding environmental protection norms established in the United States.

The regions where missile systems are to be eliminated by detonation and combustion were decided on the basis of the information obtained during the experiments.

They are regions of infertile land which are lifeless in the direct sense of the word and as far as possible from population centers and agricultural land.

Press Conference Held at Missile Destruction Site

Gen Chuchkalov Speaks

52001065a Moscow TASS in English
1830 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] Alma-Ata March 21 TASS—Today the command of the Central Asian Military District organized a press conference where journalists, writers and representatives of other creative unions were invited. The press conference was addressed by Major General G.I. Chuchkalov, member of the Military Council and head of the district's political administration. After mentioning that railway trains with theatre of operation missiles withdrawn from standby alert in the GDR and Czechoslovakia arrived in the Saryozek station, he described in detail technology of the coming elimination of these missiles after the INF Treaty is ratified.

Only carrier rockets and launching containers will be liquidated in the area of Saryozek. As for nuclear charges, they were not brought here and are to be utilized under the treaty. After carrier rockets are eliminated, the remains will be collected and dispatched for remelting.

The remainder of missile systems is planned to be used in the national economy. For instance, powerful tow-trucks will be used as cross-country vehicles, lifting cranes and other machines. U.S. experts (as well as Soviet experts in the United States) will observe strict compliance with the conditions of missile elimination.

Further Details

52001065a Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
23 Mar 88 Morning Edition p 3

[Own correspondent E. Matskevich dispatch under the rubric "Details for IZVESTIYA": "How the Missiles Will Be Destroyed"]

[Text] Alma Ata—The press has already reported that trains carrying operational-tactical missiles withdrawn from standby alert on the territory of the GDR and the CSSR prior to the ratification of the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles are arriving at Saryozek station in Taldy-Kurgan Oblast. This is an important event which has attracted the sustained interest of Soviet people and disarmament champions throughout the world.

A press conference for journalists, writers, and representatives of creative unions, held in Alma-Ata 21 March, was devoted to this event. It must be noted that the need to hold this meeting was based on the public's wish to learn in more detail what is being done to prepare for the elimination of these terrible weapons and how it will be implemented.

Why precisely in Saryozek? Was it really necessary to transport the hardware so far, right across the country? Will this not harm the environment? To what extent will the material losses be recouped? These are just some of the questions which were answered in detail by Major General G. Chuchkalov, member of the Military Council and chief of the Red Banner Central Asian Military District Political Directorate.

Saryozek is not the only site chosen for the elimination of missiles. Locations for the destruction of specific missiles have also been chosen elsewhere in the country.

Under the provisions, the distance between the site of the elimination of delivery vehicles and their launch installations must be at least 1,000 km. Saryozek meets this stipulation. In addition, a specific technical facilities and service personnel is available in the area. Other advantages include the relative remoteness from major population centers and the local terrain. The site was chosen not just by the military but also by a special interdepartmental state commission which included ecologists.

As for the safety of the operation, which is scheduled to take 18 months, it is fully guaranteed. Only the delivery vehicles and launch containers will be destroyed at the local site by blasting. The nuclear warheads will have been dismantled separately at plants in other regions. Correspondents from socialist countries were able to see this for themselves after the arrival of the first batch of the hardware in Saryozek. A test destruction of dummy missiles of a similar class by means of ordinary explosive in accordance with a specifically elaborated program has been carried out here. The effects do not differ greatly from the conditions of an ordinary artillery test site during test firings.

Several tens of kilometers separate the demolition site from Saryozek, it is located in a depression between clay hills, protective earth embankments are to be built, and attention is to be paid to the wind direction. All this totally rules out the spread of noxious substances.

Soviet and American experts will watch the process and monitor the strict observance of all conditions.

After the demolition, the remains of the missiles are to be smelted, precious metals are to be extracted from the dismantled components of the control system, and the powerful tow-trucks based on the MAZ-543 will be turned into cross-country vehicles, lifting cranes, and similar machines for use in the national economy.

Kazakhstan Paper Reports

52001071 Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA
in Russian 22 Mar 88 p 1

[KAZTAG report: "How the Missiles Will Be Destroyed"]

[Text] In the press it has already been reported that trains, carrying operational-tactical missiles removed from combat duty on the territory of the GDR and the

CSSR even before the ratification of the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles, have arrived at Saryozek station.

This important event, which the Soviet people and hundreds of millions of supporters of disarmament all over the world have long been waiting for, continues to excite broad circles of public opinion. The inhabitants of the republic, like all people of good will, are declaring their complete support for the peace-loving policy of the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet government and are calling on the United States and the other NATO countries to unconditionally follow this good example. They are expressing the hope that the process which has begun will be irreversible. They are asking that we describe in greater detail the course of preparations and the technology for the elimination of the missiles. In response to these desires, on 21 March the command of the Red Banner Central Asian Military District held a press conference, at which journalists, writers and representatives of other creative unions gathered. Major General G. I. Chuchkalov, member of the Military Council and chief of the military district political administration, spoke at the press conference.

In particular, he reported that it was no accident that Kazakhstan was chosen over other regions of the country for the destruction of the missiles. Military specialists and ecological scientists reached the conclusion that in the Saryozek area nature has created the most appropriate conditions for this: In a deep depression among the clay hills of the desert, the explosions will cause the least harm to nature. Aside from this, it is planned to use the already existing facilities at Saryozek.

After the blast, all of the debris, including the smallest pieces, along with launch canisters, will be gathered up and sent for smelting. The construction of earthen embankments will completely prevent the spread of harmful substances.

In this connection only the delivery missiles in question and their launch canisters will be eliminated in the Saryozek area. As for their nuclear charges, they will not be brought here and in accordance with the treaty are intended to be reused. The rest of the equipment of the missile complexes, after the necessary retooling, is destined for use in the economy. Thus, the powerful transporters will be turned into cross-country vehicles, cranes and other complex machinery. American experts will observe the precise fulfillment of the conditions for the elimination of the missiles (as will Soviet experts in the United States).

In conclusion it was emphasized that the participants in the press conference, just like the soldiers of the Central Asian Military District and all inhabitants of the republic, have no doubt of the great, truly historic significance of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles. This will become the first real step along the path of delivering humanity from

nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and will nullify all the plans of those who nurture adventurous hopes of victory in a nuclear war.

U. D. Dzhanibekov, Kazakhstan Communist Party Central Committee secretary, and other responsible party officials, were present at the press conference.

UD/330

Letter to Editor Requests Specific Economic Information

52001075 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Apr 88 p 5

[Letter to Editor: "It Would Be Interesting To Know." Passage in boldface as published]

[Text] **I support the Soviet-American Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles, above all from the point of view of preventing a thermonuclear catastrophe, but also from the point of view of reducing military spending today. However, I would like it if the first report on the elimination of such terrible weapons would be as specific as possible and understandable for a mass readership.**

I suggest that such a report should not only name the precise place where the missile launchers in question are stationed, but also state to which peaceful purposes the metal used in them will be devoted; and likewise as much as possible for the separate details, assemblies and mechanisms. It would also be interesting to know the addresses of the economic facilities where the demobilized missile troops will be sent to work. Especially interesting is the scope of the economic effect resulting from the elimination of this or that missile and the transfer into the productive sphere of the funds which had earlier been spent on its storage, transportation, staffing, etc.

I would like to know: What peaceful products, really necessary for our daily life, will the workers of those defense plants, who had hitherto been engaged in the production of now-destroyed classes of weapons, begin to produce? And in the summation of the report one should as much as possible delineate the general benefit to the USSR economy of the elimination of the missiles, for which the preparations have now been completed.

I am convinced that the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles, which was the result of such intense efforts over so many years, must be ratified very quickly and strictly fulfilled.

[signed] M. Nazarov.

Kokorino village, Pushkino-Gorkskiy Rayon, Pskov Oblast.

UD/330

Reports on Destruction of First Ten Shorter-Range Missiles

6 Short-Range Missiles Destroyed

52001065a Moscow World Service in English
1500 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] The first six Soviet shorter-range missiles liable for scrapping under the INF Treaty with the United States have been exploded at the proving range in southern Kazakhstan. In accordance with the treaty not only the missiles are to be abolished but also the launchers and all auxiliary equipment involved. The Soviet side decided to get rid of this class of arms by exploding them.

The paper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA says the explosion, although strong, did not damage the environment, which the Kazakh public had feared. The paper recalls the treaty provides for abolishing the missiles without their nuclear charges so the fears about a radioactive contamination are groundless. As for the consequences of the use of conventional explosives, thorough examinations of the soil and air following the explosion showed no harmful substances.

In an interview with KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, an officer in charge said the soldiers and commanders understood the importance of their work. The abolishing of missiles is a step towards lesser tension in Soviet-American relations. It will help reinforce international security.

Further Details From Saryozek

52001065a Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian
10 Apr 88 Second Edition p 3

[Special correspondents Colonel G. Miranovich and Lieutenant Colonel A. Ladin report: "Northwest of Saryozek. Servicemen Are Getting Ready To Eliminate Shorter-Range Missiles"]

[Text] Saryozek, Taldy-Kurgan Oblast—The coordinates of this small military city located some 40 kilometers northwest of Saryozek station are given in the memorandum which enshrines the relevant initial data in connection with the USSR and the United States Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles. It is described as the site for the elimination of shorter-range missiles.

The name of Saryozek station has also begun to crop up in newspaper articles quite frequently in connection with another important event. After consultation with the leadership of the GDR and the CSSR, the CPSU Central Committee has adopted the decision to withdraw from the territories of these countries, in advance of the ratification of the treaty, the Soviet operational-tactical missiles which were sited there in response to the deployment of U.S. intermediate-range missiles in West Europe. The first train carrying shorter-range missiles arrived at Saryozek station on 12 March. Subsequently,

more trains with missiles from the GDR and the CSSR began arriving here. Now an unusual bustle reigns in this once insignificant and quiet place.

We arrived at the garrison at the height of an exercise, so, unfortunately, we did not see the latest missile train being unloaded. Yet it is with unloading that it all began here. As Colonel V. Goyko, chief of the Central Asian Military Okrug missile and artillery arms service told us, this is no simple matter: The cargo as such demands special attention, precision work, and constant alertness on the part of the specialists. According to Major General L. Bugrov, the leader of the exercise, specially trained details are carrying out to perfection the operations which demand what is described as clockwork precision. One detail, for instance, has already unloaded 50 missiles. From here the missiles go to a storage site. In a technical area we saw the items—this is how the missilemen refer to them—laid out in rows. They are kept in containers.

The delivery vehicles arrive at the elimination site without the warheads which contain the destructive power of these terrible weapons. The removal of the nuclear charge device from the warheads takes place at special plants. The warhead shells are to be destroyed together with the delivery vehicles.

Nonetheless, although the unloading and transportation of the missiles is no simple task, it is not the main task. The most crucial stage is their elimination. How will this be done?

The treaty specifies with reference to the shorter-range missiles that each side will eliminate its shorter-range missiles, their launchers, and all categories of auxiliary equipment associated with these missiles and launchers as specified in the memorandum in such a way as to ensure that no later than 18 months after the treaty has come into force subsequently neither side has any such missiles, launchers, or auxiliary equipment. It is possible to imagine on what a tight schedule people here will be working. Our side has decided to eliminate this class of weapons by using explosives. This is a relatively simple method. However, the exercise which was the culmination of a training period for the personnel that had lasted several months revealed that the proverb that claims that it is easier to destroy than to create does not always apply.

It is an unusual job for an officer to break up and destroy before the eyes of subordinates weapons which in the past had to be mastered, looked after, and cherished.

And what is more, to teach the subordinates to destroy these weapons. True, it must be clarified here that already during the process of dismantling, the missile becomes useless. However, elements of the guidance system which we are entitled to remove under the treaty provisions, are carefully placed in special packing. Here

the missilemen proceed with special care. This is because precious metals—gold, silver, platinum—are to be extracted from the dismantled instruments.

In short, watching people of various qualifications and specialties at work, people like Colonel S. Petrenko, for instance, who is in charge of technical management here, and his assistants Colonel V. Leshchenko and Colonel G. Yevdokimov, Lieutenant Colonel I. Chaykovskiy, and others, you come to the conclusion that dismantling missiles is something that has to be learned. And learned seriously and thoroughly. The purpose of the exercise which we attended was to demonstrate people's readiness to carry out each operation in the complex technological chain of the missiles' elimination. That means unloading at the railroad station, transportation to the temporary storage site, dismantling of the guidance system, transportation of the explosion site, and, finally, destruction.

It is a relatively short chain. However, to ensure efficient, uninterrupted, and rhythmic work all along this chain is very, very difficult. It has called for specific organizational measures and engineering backup for all these operations with the involvement of the relevant equipment, apparatus, and specialists. Furthermore, all this is taking place on a tight schedule which, naturally, calls for a high sense of responsibility, creativeness, and initiative on the part of the people. In their majority, the specialists engaged in the preparations for the elimination of the shorter-range missiles are displaying these qualities, fully aware of the importance and significance of the tasks entrusted to them.

Many complex skills and plain physical hard work are demanded from those who are working directly with the equipment. We were able to observe in action the team headed by Captain D. Gimadiyev dismantling the guidance system of an OTR-22 (SS-12) missile. The servicemen worked with concentration, efficiency, and skill. It should, perhaps, be stressed that working on a combat missile calls for special care. After all, every item contains tonnes of explosive fuel. The pyrotechnic cartridges which ignite the missile's powder charge are not dismantled but remain in place. All servicemen, including Komsomol group organizer Junior Sergeant Valeriy Muylyava, and Private Boris Stepanov, Private Ildus Yusupov, and Private Orynbek Aydarbayev, to whom we talked, had grasped that once they have taken up their work stations dismantling the missile they must be attentive and circumspect and proceed without haste, thoughtfully. This attitude is promoted by active, purposeful party-political work in all sections, work which is headed by Lieutenant Colonel V. Pilyuk. Ever since work started, he said, people have been on their toes; there is no need to discuss any violations of military discipline or order. The talk at meetings and discussions is devoted mainly to how the entrusted task could be carried out better and to a higher standard.

We are carrying out the important task entrusted to us by the government with utmost responsibility, Captain Gimadiyev told us. The elimination of the missiles is a step toward a relaxation of tension in relations between the USSR and the United States. We understand the historic importance of the task entrusted to us and we will discharge it with honor.

Then the moment of the test explosion of the first batch of the combat missiles came. We are at the explosion site. Surrounded by hills on all sides, the site can only be observed from the height of the command-and-observation post located at a distance of some 3 km and from the explosion control point, which is somewhat nearer. There are six missiles on the site. Under the leadership of the experienced sappers Lieutenant Colonel I. Chaykovskiy, Major V. Mamrenko, and Senior Lieutenant V. Dubina, each missile has been carefully prepared for being blown up. Packs of explosives are clinging to the missile bodies like spiders.

It was midday in Moscow when the sappers and other participants in the exercise took up their positions in the shelters. The order rang out. A column of flames shot up toward the key. The echo of the explosion reverberated in the mountains. We felt the buoyant pressure of the shock wave on our faces. Naturally, all these phenomena accompanying the explosion made no special impression on the military. In the course of combat training they have occasion to observe the effect of explosive devices of similar force. For M. Unerbekov, first secretary of the Kerbulakskiy Kazakh Communist Party Raykom and B. Shestak, chairman of the Kerbulakskiy Rayispolkom—the civilians present at the explosion site—on the other hand, this was a new experience, so to speak. However, having witnessed the explosion on the spot, they came to the conclusion that sometimes even more powerful explosions are carried out at local quarries. While we exchanged views—only 7-10 minutes had passed—the cloud of dust and smoke disappeared without a trace.

The guests expressed surprise: "There had been talk about a lot of pollution and even suggestions of an earthquake. There was also a rumor that the explosion might shatter windows in Saryozek...."

It must be mentioned here that according to specialists, the process of eliminating missiles will have virtually no harmful effect on the environment. Physical damage to the site itself cannot, of course, be avoided. An explosion is an explosion. We have just seen it for ourselves: Where the missiles had been, there is now a crater comparable to a tank dugout. Naturally, it is dangerous to be without 3 km of the site during an explosion. The safe distances have been clearly defined and local authorities and the population are aware of them. A service has been organized which ensures that all precautionary measures are observed.

What is amazing, however, is that only 15 minutes after the explosion we were clearly aware of the smell of new grass at the site. An analysis of the air carried out by specialists showed that it contained no harmful substances. Only by the crater itself was there the characteristic smell of cinder and recently burned powder.

This is what will take place during the elimination. According to specialists' calculations it will not prevent workers in the adjoining Kirovskiy and Kerbulakskiy Rayons from carrying out spring field work, raising cattle, and leading the normal life they are used to. Just as the explosion described did not prevent the family of Alimbek Seytbekov, senior shepherd at the Taldy-Kurgan clothing factory subsidiary farm, and his team mates from carrying on with their work. During the explosion the team stayed where they were, working behind nearby hills, 3-4 km from the explosion site.

We talked to Alimbek and his wife Alen. Did they hear the explosion, did it frighten the animals? Yes, they heard the explosion, they reply, but everything is as normal.

These are the general feelings. It is no accident that we have focused our attention on them. There is a good reason.

A few weeks ago one of us attended a discussion between Major General G. Chuchkalov, member of the military council and chief of the political directorate of the district, and Kazakh writers. And there he heard one of the meeting participants saying that missiles with nuclear warheads would soon be blown up near Alma-Ata. This was followed by rhetorical questions about environmental pollution.

This happened despite the fact that it has long been known that nuclear charges will not be blown up. They will never even reach Saryozek. And all that will be destroyed will have no harmful effect on the atmosphere during the elimination.

During a conversation with representatives of the USSR Defense Ministry Main Missile and Artillery Directorate we heard many words of praise about all who are engaged in this matter of great political importance here in Saryozek. People are working in the knowledge that their work will be of benefit for the whole Soviet people and will serve the cause of strengthening international security.

Ecological Fears Rebutted

*52001065a Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1930 GMT 12 Apr 88*

[Text] Unusual activity reigns in the uninhabited terrain near the Kazakh village of Saryozek. In accordance with the treaty between the USSR and the United States, work is at its height here to prepare for the elimination of

the corresponding missile technology. Technical completion of the Saryozek part of the program to put into practice the reduction of nuclear confrontation was completed here today, in this desert area which the local inhabitants call the Land of the Yellow Hills.

At the same time, the ecological consequences of this action were once again investigated, all the more so in that these problems have given rise to alarming rumors in Alma-Ata and in a number of other regions in the republic. The TASS correspondent was briefed on the ecologists' data, and was assured that anxiety about the anticipated events in Saryozek is unfounded.

Materials, Assemblies Salvaged

*52001065a Moscow TASS in English
1153 GMT 12 Apr 88*

[Text] Saryozek (Kazakhstan) April 12 TASS—TASS special correspondent Vladimir Akimov reports: Preparations for practical realisation of the Soviet-U.S. INF Treaty has been completed here today exactly one month since the arrival of the first trains with missile equipment from Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic.

The Kazakhstan steppes which became world famed as the launch site of Soviet space rocket technology are for the first time becoming a site of the elimination of a whole class of missiles.

The exercises the course of which, together with military specialists and ecologists, was watched by Soviet journalists, covered the entire range of work connected with the elimination of shorter-range missiles. Missile bodies are brought here without warheads. The extraction of a nuclear device from the warhead is done at special plants. One group of officers and men practiced techniques for the delivery of missiles to storage area while another one removed instruments and electrical equipment from the batch of OTR-22 (SS-12) and OTR-23 (SS-23) missiles selected for the exercises. The first two sets of missiles were blown up during the first exercises on April 8.

"Valuable materials, including gold and platinum will be also extracted from this set," explained Colonel Victor Leshchenko, deputy head of the USSR Defence Ministry's centre for controlling the elimination of shorter-range missiles. "All the remaining assemblies and parts will be turned over for economic uses."

Incidentally, as was already reported, the high-powered truck tractors which transported the missiles are to be converted in due course into cross-country vehicles for geologists and cranes for builders.

Another group of officers and men delivered the missiles allotted for the exercise to the elimination site. It is located at a distance of several tens of kilometres from

Saryozek in a deep hollow surrounded by hills. Experts maintain that damage caused by demolitions to the environment would be the least there.

American experts (just as Soviet ones in the United States) will monitor the accurate fulfillment of conditions for missiles' elimination which will begin after the INF Treaty is ratified in the Soviet Union and the United States.

An observation post has been set up specially for U.S. experts in a concrete bunker on one of the hills. For the time being journalists are now there watching how field engineers far down below are busy bundling missiles into two packages of four and six missiles, surround them with dynamite blocks, and how scientists are installing instruments.

A command was given, and Captain Viktor Melnik closed the circuit, demolishing the first package of missiles. Several seconds later a helicopter took off to survey the demolition site.

A shallow crater remained on the site of the elimination of the missiles. Small pieces of metal were discovered only after a survey of the adjacent territory. "All the rest burnt up during the explosion. The collected metal will be remelted," said the director of the exercises, Major General Leonid Bugrov.

Second 'Trial Detonation' Carried Out

*52001065a Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian
13 Apr 88 Second Edition p 3*

[Unnamed own correspondent report: "Preparations for Elimination of Missiles"]

[Text] As the 10 April issue of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has already reported, preparation to eliminate shorter-range missiles is under way northwest of Saryozek, Taldy-Kurgan Oblast. Another trial detonation of groups of combat and dummy OTR-22 (SS-12) and OTR-23 (SS-23) missiles for the purpose of improving the engineering techniques, training personnel, and checking the reliability of the safety measures envisaged has been carried out. Other organizational and economic tasks designed to ensure that all necessary conditions were created for the personnel involved in the work of eliminating the missiles and for representatives on the inspection side are also being tackled at the same time.

Colonel S. Petrenko, representative of the USSR Defense Ministry Main Rocket and Artillery Directorate, noted that the servicemen entrusted with discharging the important government assignments at the moment the Treaty on the elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles comes into force, that is after ratification by the two sides, will be fully ready to execute the tasks envisaged under the treaty on eliminating that class of missiles, the destruction of which is planned in the Saryozek region.

Scientists of the Kazakh SSR Academy of Sciences and representatives of the mass media participated in this latest stage of the exercise.

Descriptions of Missile Detonations

Destruction Called 'Moral Event'

*52001065a Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian
14 Apr 88 p 1*

[Correspondent A. Lapin "Reportage for the Issue": "Farewell to Arms!"]

[Text] Taldy-Kurgan Oblast—This event is destined to go down in history: The first combat missiles have been destroyed on a Soviet military test site not far from the settlement of Saryozek.

"The blast is scheduled for exactly 1000 hours! In half an hour all approaches to the field will be barred!" Colonel Petrenko, chief of the Shorter-Range Missile Elimination Control Center, told me.

A few minutes later, an orange bus, bucking from one pothole to the next, was already carrying journalists toward the field where a portentous event of our time was to take place.

We stopped. With the aid of binoculars we could clearly see the doomed missiles lying several kilometers from us in the middle of the valley, tied up in a square package in some ways resembling a log raft.

Prior to this, a team under the leadership of Captain G. Gimadiyev had been solemnly extracting the missile's brain—the control system instruments—from its steel innards. The men worked efficiently and harmoniously. Privates V. Yarmanov and B. Aytkenov, Komsomol members, fulfilled all operations with surgical precision. Soon the precious metals will be extracted at plants from these instruments.

Then we observed sappers—Sergeants O., Neybauer and K. Abdikov—preparing the "package" under the leadership of Major S. Belous, placing explosives around it.

The whole significance of the moment was that for the first time in world history the makers themselves were preparing to destroy their completed works. Destroy them and thereby take a step toward a different, better world. The missile blasts here, near Saryozek were now to proclaim to the world the approach of a new era.

It must not be thought that decisions such as this come easily to governments and peoples. It is probably doubly difficult for those whose hands have previously held this formidable hardware. "But we military men are also aware that the next twist of the arms race could prove fatal," Colonel V.P. Leshchenko, deputy chief of the Shorter-Range Missile Elimination Control Center, said.

"For even these few percentage points of the stockpiled lethal arsenal which we are to eliminate under the Soviet-U.S. treaty are capable of destroying the world."

No, the missiles' elimination is not just a technical act, it is also a moral event. By taking the first step toward our rival, we are showing the world our goodwill.

The clock hand was moving steadily toward 10. The sun was getting really hot. Birds were singing. A helicopter suddenly appeared from behind the surrounding hills and landed on a pad. The top military chiefs had arrived.

Meanwhile, one signal rocket after another was soaring up. Finally the first explosion was heard, destroying six practice articles. We patiently awaited the second, main explosion.

A red tongue of flame suddenly rose up in the center of the field. And at once, without a pause, the rocket fuel detonated. Burning debris soared into the sky like fireworks. A second later a compression blast wave hit our faces. The roar of the explosion finally reached us with it. Fragments were still falling to earth, while a white and yellow powder cloud was already swelling over the field. It spread out and slowly drifted with the wind. Beside it the helicopter too off into the limpid blue sky. It carried scientists taking air samples for analysis.

Unfortunately, long before the first explosion, a wave of rumors had begun to rise in nearby oblasts and rayons of the republic that the missiles' elimination would harm nature. Speculating on people's natural anxiety, certain irresponsible persons had tried to sow panic...

We drove to the scene of the explosion. The smoldering residue of rocket fuel, scattered fragments, and the small of powder smoke were there now. I picked up a piece of silvery warm metal from the hot ground singed by the blast. It was all that remained of the formidable weapon.

I looked around once again and saw the concentrated faces of our soldiers. Who knows, perhaps the years will pass and mankind will erect on this spot a memorial with the inscription: "Here, at the end of the 20th century, the first missiles were destroyed."

Further Details

52001067 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
14 Apr 88 p 3

[Article by IZVESTIYA own correspondent E. Matskevich under the rubric: "From the Place of the Event": "Order: Destroy the Missiles"]

[Text] Taldy-Kurgan Oblast—Our newspaper has already reported how, in accordance with the USSR-U.S. treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles, the preparation for the elimination of the appropriate missile equipment has been completed in our country.

... Alarm. Everyone took shelter. For several kilometers around guard posts had been set up. From the command-observation point, precisely at the appointed time, there came the last command "Fire." A second later there was a flick on the appropriate instrument. There was a blinding flash, the earth shook and a yellow and white cloud rose into the sky, roiling and spreading out over a kilometer. Ten minutes later another signal followed—and there was another blast.

Thus, in two explosions, ten missiles were destroyed—both combat and training missiles. Before the dust settled a helicopter rose into the sky with a dosimeter...

The dry grass among the first snowdrops is still smoking, but specialists are hurrying to the place of the "incident." All around are twisted fragments of metal. They gather up the remains and take them away.

I saw the smiling faces of the people who have accomplished this great work. All of them—including officers—sappers I. Chaykovskiy, V. Dubina and V. Lomonosov, who are fated to work at this for a year and a half; Junior Sergeant V. Mulyava and privates B. Stepanov, I. Yusupov and O. Aydarbayev, who disassembled the missiles; and those who delivered the equipment—dozens of servicemen who contributed their labor to this cause well understand that they are participants in an important historical event.

Representatives of the Kazakh SSR Academy of Sciences, specialists-meteorologists, ecologists and leaders of local soviets were present at the exercise. Here they performed the necessary measurements, tests and evaluations. Their common opinion: The concentration of harmful substances was far below acceptable norms and a small percentage of what is observed in the center of Alma-Ata and other large cities.

UD/330

Kazakhstan Paper Stresses Ecological Safety
52001072 Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA
in Russian 14 Apr 88 p 3

[Article by KAZTAG correspondent V. Akimov: "Preparation for the Destruction of the Missiles"]

[Text] Saryozek, Taldy-Kurgan Oblast—In a ravine [urochushche] not far from the small workers' village of Saryozek there is unaccustomed activity. In accordance with the Soviet-U.S. treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles, as in other similar places in the country, work is in full swing to prepare for the elimination of the missile equipment covered by the treaty. When they blew up ten training and combat SS-23 and SS-12 shorter-range missiles on 12 April, military specialists in this desert area completed their technical preparations for the Saryozek part of the program for the practical realization of a decrease in the nuclear confrontation. At

the same time they once again studied the probability of the release of the products of such directed explosions into the environment and the possible consequences of this.

In the course of such unusual exercises, journalists—together with representatives of local party and soviet organs, scientists from the Kazakh SSR Academy of Sciences and from the Kazakh SSR Gosagroprom, employees of the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control and the Kazakh republic hydrometeorology administration—observed for several days. It was no accident that such a varied and numerous contingent gathered here. Rumors about all sorts of "ecological horrors" in connection with the impending action in Saryozek have been spreading in Alma-Ata, in several other cities and also in rural areas of the republic. In order to put an end once and for all to such fears by militarily illiterate people, the command of the Central Asian Military District invited a wide circle of specialists and representatives of the public as "arbitrators."

At the Saryozek station, before our eyes one group of soldiers and officers unloaded a regular train carrying missiles, which the Soviet Union had withdrawn unilaterally from combat duty on the territory of the GDR and the CSSR long before the start of debate on the treaty in the U.S. Senate and the appropriate USSR Supreme Soviet commission. A second group busied themselves moving the missiles into a storage area. The rest of the soldiers, including Junior Sergeant V. Mulyava and privates B. Stepanov I. Yusupov and O. Aydarbayev, armed with wrenches, screwdrivers and other simple tools, removed instruments and electronics from the missiles set aside for experiments.

Colonel V. Leshchenko, deputy chief of the USSR Ministry of Defense control center for the elimination of shorter-range missiles, told us: "Please note that none of the delivery missiles have front sections. Just like the launchers and transportation equipment, they were not brought here at all, but will also cease to serve as military equipment. They will be rebuilt into civilian "specialities" in other regions of the country. Thus, for example, the powerful transporters will be turned into cross-country vehicles, cranes and other peaceful machinery. Furthermore, even the instruments and electronics which you now see being removed, and from which valuable metals will be extracted, are also destined for economic purposes.

While V. Leshchenko familiarized us with examples of the terrible weapons, gave various explanations and answered numerous questions, the soldiers and officers prepared ten "disemboweled" training and combat SS-23 and SS-12 missiles for transport. Under the direction of Colonel A. Rogov, chief of the motor vehicle security group, the many-meters-long hulks were brought to the place of destruction. One of them is located a few

dozen kilometers from Saryozek, in a wide, deep depression surrounded on all sides by bare clay hills. This unusually suitable terrain, together with the closeness of railways and roads, served as a trump card in the hands of the specialists, scientists and ecologists in choosing a site for the elimination. They all came to the unanimous opinion that here, in the process of carrying out the action envisaged in the Soviet-U.S. treaty, the natural environment will suffer practically no harm.

American experts will observe the precise fulfillment of the conditions for the elimination of the delivery missiles (as will Soviet experts across the ocean). A special observation point has been built for them on one of the hills. Here we lord it over, expectantly, while far below sappers make two bundles, of four and six missiles respectively, and cover them with a special arrangement of dynamite cartridges. The representatives of the hydrometeorological services set up their instruments in the necessary places.

And now the preparatory operations are completed. People and equipment move away the necessary distance. The long-awaited command is heard, and Captain V. Melnik closes the contacts on the "infernal machine." From the place where, just a moment ago, the first bundle of missiles had been, a pillar of fire and smoke mixed with burning metal rose into the sky like a gigantic fireworks display. A helicopter takes off to examine the zone of the explosion of the first bundle of missiles. And we, not waiting for the dust to completely settle, head down into the bottom of the depression.

To the general amazement, all that remains in place of the missiles is a shallow crater, no bigger than a tank cover, a still-sharp smell of gasses, a thick cloud of gray-yellow dust swirling in the air, and clods of damp spring soil scattered around... And no other traces in sight! Only by carefully searching the surrounding territory, the soldiers and officers found a few dozen little bits of metal with a brown-black mass adhering to it.

"Everything else burned up during the explosion," so said Major General L. Bugrov, the leader of the exercise. Turning to us, he added: "The metal we have collected will go for smelting. As for the residual powder charge—not all the fuel burned up at once—it will be destroyed in a repeat "run."

Thus an hour and a half passed in looking over the area and meeting with the missileers. That was enough for the representatives of the Kazakh republic hydrometeorological administration to carry out a scrupulous express-analysis of the air and soil in the depression. And now an ecologist is already announcing the results received: dust content, increase in the level of hydrogen chloride... However it is far from the permissible level of concentration for humans and even a fraction of what is observed every day in large cities and workers' villages. For example, in the center of Alma-Ata.

This conclusion was confirmed by the explosion of the second bundle of six missiles. It was a finale to the many days of exercises. Convinced once again of the correctness of the decisions which had been made, the participants showed their complete technical readiness to eliminate the missiles according to plan. Now it is a matter of the ratification of the treaty in the legislative organs of the USSR and the United States.

It remains for us to add: As you see, the alarm of a number of Kazakhstan citizens over the expected events in Saryozek was without foundation. For all practical purposes, this is a commonplace job for sappers—blowing up powder charges with the help of demolition explosives. In essence, that is with the help of just such explosive substances as are packed into metal “packages” that we call missiles and launch canisters. And so after a week of daily explosions, less assorted substances and gasses will be thrown into the air, than from a month of operation of a medium-sized thermal electric station.

UD/330

Experiment Called ‘Successful’

52001065a Moscow TRUD in Russian 14 Apr 88 p 3

[Correspondent V. Gafmatulin report: “Explosions for Peaceful Purposes in Saryozek”]

[Text] Saryozek, Taldy-Kurgan Oblast—Soviet Army servicemen and specialists are preparing for the destruction of some shorter-range missiles. They have rehearsed the technical aspects of the operation by destroying dozens of dummy and combat missiles.

Near the Saryozek workers settlement in the deserted region known as the “Land of the Yellow Hills,” the OTR-23 and OTR-22 (SS-23 and SS-12) stand ready to be fired into oblivion. Just a short while ago we watched at the station as a group of officers and men unloaded a train containing the operational-tactical missiles removed by our country unilaterally from active service on the territory of the GDR and the CSSR. They had been delivered for storage and safekeeping. Now our servicemen were promptly removing various instruments from the missiles destined for experimental use.

For several days, the unusual exercises were observed by scientists, hydrometeorologists, journalists, and public representatives. There is good reason for that. Rumors had spread in the republic, fanned by foreign radio stations, about the serious environmental after-effects of these explosions for peaceful purposes.

Colonel V. Leshchenko, deputy chief of the USSR Ministry of Defense Shorter-Range Missiles Elimination Control Center, takes up the story:

“I would like to draw to your attention the fact that there are no warheads on any of the missile delivery vehicles. The launchers and transporters have not been brought here, but they will also be put to civilian use. As envisaged by the mutual accord, that will only take place in other parts of the country. The truck tractors, for example, will be shortened, their missile mountings will be removed, and they will be turned into conventional trucks and crane trucks.”

While we were listening to the colonel, some other officers and men were cleaning the missiles and preparing the bulky many meters-long objects for transportation. Sappers took over at the destruction site. They were preparing two groups of missiles and packing them with dynamite charges.

Everything was ready. The order was given—and Captain V. Melnik closed the circuit of the “infernal machine.” A huge ball of flame, smoke, and molten metal rose high into the sky. Hardly had the dust settled and the smoke dispersed than everyone rushed to the bottom of the rocky hollow. At the site of the explosion there was a shallow crater and yellow-gray smoke.

Hydrometeorologists immediately carried out an on-the-spot analysis of the air and soil. The results were announced: The hydrogen chloride content had increased but it was considerably below the maximum permissible concentration for human beings. They explained that it is several times lower than the daily level observed in downtown Alma-Ata. They calculated that after a week of daily explosions the amount of harmful substances discharged into the air will be less than that produced by a test of average capacity in 1 month. As we can see, the alarm felt by a section of Kazakhstan inhabitants is completely unwarranted. In addition, the terrain and the wind direction were taken into account when the site for the explosion was selected.

The experiment was successful. Everything is ready for the destruction of the missiles. All that is left is to await the ratification of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles by the United States and our country.

GDR Paper Interviews Soviet Missile Destruction Official

LD260959 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0739 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Berlin, 22 Apr ADN—Colonel Victor Leshchenko, deputy head of the USSR Defense Ministry's Center for Controlling the Elimination of Shorter-Range Missiles, reported Friday in the GDR paper DER MORGEN on the liquidation of the OTR-23 (SS-12, SS-23) missiles in Saryozek in Kazakhstan.

Col Leshchenko states in the exclusive interview: We want to solve all the problems connected with any possible damage to the environment by the serial

destruction of the missiles. Experts and representatives of the population of Kazakhstan established by means of soil and atmospheric tests and measurements of the explosion wave "that there (will be no) significant damage to the environment. We carried out two explosions; a package of four and a package of six missiles were blown up. There is no need to blow them up again, because the missiles break up into fragments, as provided by the treaty."

With reference to reusing some missile parts in the economy, Col Leshchenko says: "Under the treaty we are only allowed to dismantle and use the guidance systems—not in their original form, but only the materials they contain, whereby we are particularly interested in the precious metals platinum, gold, and silver. They will be extracted and used in the economy."

Consideration was also given during the tests to the provision of controls of future explosions by U.S. inspectors. "We are planning the following procedure: The U.S. inspectors will be able to see for themselves at the site of the explosions that the right missiles are packaged for explosion. They will count the weapons and can measure them in order to accurately determine the type involved. After that they will take up position in the observation post, from where they can safely watch the dynamite being put into place and the detonation of the packages."

The experience gained in the liquidation of shorter-range missiles could also be used in the elimination of strategic weapons, said Col Leshchenko, "despite certain technical differences. There would be no obstacles from a technical point of view to the liquidation of all these weapons. The most important factor is that the question is solved politically, that is, that the new treaty is completed as soon as possible."

Mobile Missile Transport Vehicles To Be Used in Construction

Odessa Report

52001065b Moscow Television Service in Russian
1530 GMT 17 Mar 88

[Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 1530 GMT on 17 March 1988 broadcast a video report of new cranes being produced at the Imeni Yanvar'skogo Vosstaniya Production Association in Odessa. The cranes incorporate the chassis used for missiles now being withdrawn from Europe. The broadcast shows the undercarriages with cranes mounted on top.

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SS-20 Transporters To Be Cranes

52001065b Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0745 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Odessa, 25 Apr (TASS)—The first transport vehicle from a medium-range missile, known in the West as an SS-20, has arrived at the Odessa Heavy Crane-Building Works in the south of the Ukraine. It has been decided to produce mobile construction cranes with a great lifting capacity on the basis of such chassis after the INF Treaty between the USSR and the United States comes into force.

According to the treaty, the missile itself is to be scrapped and the equipment servicing it can be used for peaceful purposes. Preparations for such use of the transport chassis were begun at the works even before ratification of the Soviet-U.S. treaty.

Designers at the works have already developed the design for an 80-tonne crane that will be fitted on the former missile chassis. It will be shortened, by the way, to ensure that it would be impossible to use it in the future as part of a combat missile installation.

The Swiss-West German firm Liebherr also has offered to take part in the production of heavy cranes on the former chassis of missile installation chassis. Its president, Hans Liebherr, who visited Odessa recently in connection with the setting up of a joint enterprise, stated that the firm has available the design for a crane with a lifting capacity of 120 tonnes, which can be used with the former missile chassis with the minimum of design modification.

/9738

Transformation under Study

52001076 Kiev RABOCHAYA GAZETA in Russian
15 Mar 88 p 1

[V. Aleksandrov article: "Reporter Reports: Instead of Missiles—Cranes; May the Combat Truck-Tractors Travel Peacefully". Passage in boldface as published.]

[Excerpts] The designers at the Imeni Yanvar'skogo Vosstaniya Factory, an Odessa heavy crane-building production association, are preparing studies for the new modification of cranes on chassis taken from under missiles, which will be freed up after the ratification of the treaty in intermediate- and shorter-range missiles. [Passage omitted describing factory's conversion from civilian to military production during World War II.]

Today the "Yanvarka" specialists are facing a task no less challenging. A task pushing for creative purposes.

After the Treaty on the Elimination of Soviet and American Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles was signed in December of last year, the workers of the heavy crane-building association made up their minds to help the missile truck-trailers [tyagach] acquire a peaceful profession.

"Our specialists have already drawn up study sketches for several modifications of cranes on chassis which have been relieved of their missiles," says association chief engineer G. I. Panyushkin. "The designers are studying the base points of the component fasteners on these chassis and learning what needs to be changed. Our collective has been cooperating with the Polish Bumar-Labedy Machine-Building Combine for a long time. Obviously, assemblies prepared in Polish factories will appear in the new machines. Since a joint venture with the Liebherr firm was recently established—the firm's head offices are in Switzerland and its factories are mainly in the FRG—we are working up the fasteners to these machines for the rotating parts of the cranes which Liebherr produces."

The design studies show that the unusual cranes will have a lifting capacity of from 80 to 125 tonnes. They will be able to move easily while carrying loads and to carry out crane operations on unprepared sites.

I was able to speak with V. I. Cherbayev, Hero of Socialist Labor and a brigadier of machine operators, at the association. After he graduated from the factory training school, he and the other workers raised their "Yanvarka" up from the ruins after the war.

"I would like to believe that the missile truck-tractors will travel as peaceful giants," Viktor Ivanovich said, "and that the designers' studies will not be in vain, and that the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles will be ratified. Of course people want to live in a world where Soviet and American space ships would link up for joint scientific research for the good of mankind; they do not want to live in military confrontation."

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